1860–1935

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY
ROLL CALL

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

KENDALLVILLE - - - - - - - INDIANA

Dedicated to the Glory of Christ for
seventy-five years of blessings
both spiritual and temporal

STAND FAST IN THE FAITH
Cor. 16, 13

Dedicated to the Glory of God for
seventy-five years of blessings
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"STAND FAST IN THE FAITH"
I Cor. 16, 13

Foreword

To provide a brief summary of the program as carried out by St. John's Church throughout this seventy-fifth anniversary year is the purpose of this booklet. May you review it with joy and may it serve to bring back to you lasting memories of the joyful gatherings held during 1935.

Editorial Committee:

H. W. Ziebell, Chairman
Eleonore Kropp
Johanna Wills
Helen Reichardt

St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Cor. Oak and Rush Streets,
Kendallville, Indiana

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving
And into His courts with praise"

WITH grateful appreciation we remember our spiritual guide for more than a third of the seventy-five year period; a conscientious, faithful, tireless worker, a builder together with God for the welfare of souls; patient in days of difficulty; faithful and fearless in preaching the pure Word of God as revealed only in Holy Scripture. Our highest esteem, love and confidence are given in tribute to our pastor, the Rev. M. F. Kretzmann, expressing also the wish for many more years of blessing through his services.

"The Lord bless thy going out and thy coming in
From this time forth and even for evermore"

The Anniversary Year

By special resolution of the congregation a committee was chosen to plan and direct the carrying out of a program throughout the year to bring about a reconsecration of every member of St. John's to the Savior and his cause. The following comprised this committee:

R. J. Rehwinkel, Chairman
Rev. M. F. Kretzmann
Teacher John Ehlers
Charles Beckman
Fred Kropp
Henry Schreiber

This committee planned and directed the program as outlined briefly in the pages of this book.

Anniversary Motto:

"STAND FAST IN THE FAITH"
I Cor. 16, 13

Official Observance

The official anniversary services commemorating the founding of St. John's Lutheran Church of Kendallville, Indiana, were held Sunday, March 3rd. Since the various paragraphs of the constitution were discussed in meetings held February 10 and 13, 1860, and this historical document was adopted on February 20th and signed by the first thirteen voters on March 4, 1860, this day may be regarded as the birthday of the congregation. For this reason the congregation had chosen Sunday, March 3, 1935, as the anniversary Sunday.

The Special Anniversary Services

THE chief of the anniversary services were held on March 3. Pastor Kretzmann conducted the liturgical service and Prof. A. M. Rehwinkel, President of St. John's College, Winfield, Kansas, served in the pulpit for both morning and evening. Prof. Rehwinkel chose for his morning sermon the words "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which Thou hast shewed unto Thy servant." In the evening the sermon subject was: "Is the Gospel of Christ still adequate in this present day of progress?" based on the words of St. Paul, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the Power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

In both of these sermons Prof. Rehwinkel clearly and forcibly proved the Gospel of Christ to be the only hope of the world in its spiritual needs, and Christianity the true foundation of all real progress, the only power to make men wise unto salvation and to elevate the standards of mankind.

Special organ music was provided by Mr. John Ehlers, principal of our school, and under his direction the church choir and the children's chorus assisted in beautifying these services. For this special occacasion the pastor had composed the following hymn, dedicated to the congregation:

SING to the Lord, our God,
Who all these years has blessed us,
Whose grace was ever new,
Though troubles great distressed us;
He was our God, of old,
He is our God today,
He does not cast us off,
He is our God for aye.

The Special Anniversary Services (continued)

To Him that lowly band,
Though poor and small in number,
Looked up for help and strength,
Whose eyelids never slumber,
They built on God's own Word,
They laid foundations sure,
Though gates of hell assailed,
They felt in Him secure.

We trust in Thee, our Lord,
We have no other Savior;
Our confidence art Thou,
Not our own poor behavior;
Thy Word our help shall be;
We consecrate anew
All that we have and are,
All that we ever do.

Hold Thy protecting care,
O Father, ever o'er us,
And Thou, eternal Son,
Whose mercies ever bore us;
Thou Spirit, ever blest,
Our Comforter and Guide,
O help that in Thy truth
We ever may abide.

Men's Service

THE men of the church gathered for their special service on Wednesday evening, February 20th. Thirteen charter members had signed the first constitution seventy-five years ago. One hundred forty men attended this service, besides many other members. Rev. O. Schumm of Centerville, Michigan, the son of former pastor, Geo. Schumm, delivered the sermon on Matthew 18, 20. "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."

A Bach Chorale was sung by the men and boy choir and the congregation sang a hymn dedicated especially to the men of the church by their pastor. Following the church service a social program was carried out in the school auditorium. The Rev. W. C. Birkner, of Fort Wayne, Superintendent of Missions of the Central District of the Missouri Synod, was the speaker at the banquet.

Young People's Service

On Sunday evening, Feb. 24th, at the regular hour of service, over two hundred young people of the church marched from the parish school to the church for an inspirational service. The church was filled to capacity to hear the sermon delivered by Prof. O. P. Kretzmann, Executive Secretary of the International Walther League. Basing his address on Isaiah 51, 9, he pleaded especially with the youth of the church to hold high and carry forward the torch of pure faith in the Word of God which is their most precious heritage. Again a hymn dedicated to the young people and composed by their pastor was sung. The children of the day-school sang "Thank ye the Lord."

After the church service the social meeting followed in the school. The auditorium was most attractively decorated in keeping with the anniversary. Special guests were Prof. O. P. Kretzmann, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Helmke, Mr. Helmke being President of the International Walther League, and Mr. Henry Lang, the only survivor of the first young people's organization of the church, dating back to 1868. The enthusiasm of this group was outstanding and the anniversary motto "Stand fast in the Faith" was set up as a mighty challenge to the young people of the church.

Children's Service

THE children of the church were honored by a special service Wednesday, February 27th, at 7:30 P. M.

A service of song was presented by the children of the school, including the Girls' Choral Club and the Boy Choir, under the direction of Mr. John Ehlers, principal of the school, who also presided at the organ.

The Rev. Paul F. Miller of Fort Wayne preached a most appropriate sermon, and a hymn was sung, written by the pastor and dedicated to the children of the church. After the offertory the children of the church represented by Marjorie Ziebell in an impressive manner presented a generous gift of money to the pastor for the building fund of the congregation and the pastor graciously accepted this gift in the name of the church. The whole service brought out the importance of the injunction of Christ: "Feed my lambs," and that our children, too, may ever "Stand fast in the Faith."

At the children's dinner party held Tuesday evening after Easter one hundred sixty-three were present. A delightful program suitable for the children was carried out. The Rev. Alfred Kretzmann, of Barrington, Illinois, was among the special guests present. This event was sponsored by the Jubilee Committee.

Women's Service

The last of the special services on Friday, March 1st, was devoted to the women of the church. The Rev. M. F. Kretzmann, pastor of the church, preached the sermon on this occasion and dedicated a hymn to this group also. The women's three-part choir beautified this service by the singing of two anthems and again prayer and praise served to magnify the grace and blessings of God showered upon us these seventy-five years.

A beautifully appointed luncheon, held February 26th at 2:30 P. M., constituted the social part of the ladies' program and a most interesting program was carried out at this event, attended by two hundred members and guests. Mrs. Edith Rehwinkel was the principal speaker, choosing as her topic: "The Woman in the Church."

The Reunion Services

THE general plan of the reunions was to hold a special church service for every class confirmed in St. John's and everyone now a member though confirmed elsewhere. Classes united in groups of approximately 50. Personal invitations were mailed to each individual in the reunion group.

Front pews were reserved in the church for reunion class members and their families at their special service. Luncheons were held following the special service. R. J. Rehwinkel acted as general chairman for each reunion. An official roll call was held following the luncheon. Fred Kropp was in charge of each of the eleven roll calls.

Many blessings resulted from the reunions: closer friendships and closer contacts among members, also the reviving of interest in many members who had become indifferent to the church.

Note: Below each story on the reunions the names are given of all communicants of those groups as they were enrolled in our records as of 1935. Those who died during the year are marked with a cross (+), and those who were given a release are marked with an (R).

The First Reunion

THE first Reunion Service, including the classes of 1860 to 1878, was held Sunday, February 3, 1935, at 10:30 A. M., in German. The pastor, the Rev. M. F. Kretzmann, selected as his text the motto chosen for the entire jubilee year, "Stand fast in the Faith." The morning service was followed by a luncheon in the school hall at noon, seventy-five members and guests attending.

During the years from 1860 to 1878 there were 177 persons confirmed. Of these thirty responded to the roll call. One hundred and eight were reported dead. Thirteen pioneers were present and most of the rest were accounted for. The thirteen present included Mrs. Amalia Sprandel, the only living member of the first local confirmation class, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lang, Henry P. Lang, Henry Ortstadt, Adolph Helmuth, Mrs. Mary Narr, Mrs. W. Seemeyer, Henry Frahm, Mrs. Elizabeth Duve, Fred Oesterheld, Geo. Rauh, and Fred Wilks. The people of this group were among the pioneers of Kendallville and contributed much to the development of the city and community and most of all in establishing from the first a place of worship, so that in this seventy-fifth year of jubilee they with their children and grandchildren could rejoice in the possession of God's richest spiritual gifts.

1853

Mrs. Catharine Bohneberger

1857

John Wojahn +

1858

John Linder

1862

Mrs. Elizabeth Wessel
Philip Pfaffman

1863

Mrs. Amalia Sprandel
Mrs. Wilhelmina Misselhorn
Mrs. Katharine Breidert +

1864

David Mertz
Mrs. Elizabeth Duve
August Dyk

1865

Christian Bauman

1866

Mrs. Meta Wilk
J. H. Duve +

1867

Henry Lang
Fred Feldman
Mrs. Friedericke Fritz

1868

Mrs. Hannah Browand
Mrs. Wilhelmina Witzke
Mrs. Caroline Heinke

1869

Mrs. Elizabeth Duve
Mrs. Amalia Hass
Magdalena Reichardt

1871

Christ Muesing
Mrs. Lisetta Mertz
Henry Eichelberg +
Mrs. Rosine Eisenmann +

1872

Frederick Nessel
Mrs. Friedericke Beights

1873

Mrs. Gertrude Rehwinkel
Albert Atz
John Reichardt
Christian Dieterle
Mrs. Maria Bertsch

1874

Mrs. Pauline Auman
George Bauman
Mrs. Henrietta Wittenborn
Wm. C. Auman +

1875

Mrs. Dorothea Harker
Mrs. Pauline Sebert
Mrs. Emma Reichardt
Mrs. Emiline Kropp
Mrs. Lydia Herberger
Mrs. Sophia Baase
Mrs. Sophia Atz
Louise Leberecht

1876

Mrs. Mary Narr
Otto Kiebel
Mrs. Rosa Fritz
Mrs. Eva Bauman

1877

Mrs. Lisbeth Lang
Mrs. Mary Holmes
Minnie Butz
Fred Schlueter

1878

Paul G. Klinkenberg
Geo. Lang
Henry Ortstadt
Mrs. Caroline Schwartz
Mrs. Anna Ryan

The Second Reunion

THE second Reconsecration Service was held February 17, 1935, and included the classes of 1879 to 1889. The German service was held at 10:30 A. M. Rev. M. F. Kretzmann chose as his text Rev. 3, 11: "Hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy crown." Luncheon was served at noon in the school auditorium attended by one hundred forty-nine. Those confirmed during these years numbered one hundred seventy-one, local members still living, thirty. To these, twenty-five members were added who were confirmed elsewhere.

1879
Michael Reick
Mrs. Elizabeth Miller
Herman Kaufman
Gottlieb Bertsch

1880
Mrs. Wilhelmine Kent
Henry Weimer
Mrs. Frieda Boszor
Mrs. Sophia Schlueter

1881
William Detering
Mrs. Anna Ortstadt
William Weil
Mrs. Louise Streb
Mrs. Mary Detering

1882
Samuel Beights
Mrs. Anna Schissler
Mrs. Magdalena Wemple
Mary Miller
E. G. Autenrieth
John Bechberger
Herman Reichardt

1883
Julius Ortstadt
Charles Streb
Emil Weinert
Henry Diehm
Mrs. Lena Haller
John Zawadzke, Sr.

1884
Mrs. Emelie Wagner
Johanna Boese
Ernst Wagner

1885
William Butz
Paul Sprandel
Mrs. Louise Swaverly
Mrs. Ida Hoffman
Mrs. Lena Weinert
William Gehring
Mrs. Minnie Detering

1886
Mrs. Matilda Shauck
Mrs. Hannah Brown
Mrs. Dora Weimer
Mrs. E. Autenrieth
George Busch
Mrs. Mary Dust

1887
Chas. Lohman
Chas. G. Beckman
Mrs. Elizabeth Beights
Elizabeth Baad
Frank Ziebell
Mrs. Emma Ziebell

1888
Geo. J. Kaiser
Julia Wehmeyer
Mae Lohman
Carrie Lemp

1889
Mrs. Anna Reichardt
Mrs. Rebecca Lang
Mrs. Emelia Reichardt
Mrs. Katharine Zawadzke
Mrs. Louise Nessel
Wm. Bechberger
Mrs. Emma Vosgerau
Frieda Freeland

The Third Reunion

THE third Reunion, that of the classes of 1890 to 1896, took place Sunday morning, March 10th. This was an English service. The pastor based his sermon on the text John 18, 17, "Art not thou also one of this Man's disciples?" He pointed out that every individual must answer this question, urging each one to make the confession that Peter did, "Lord, Thou knowest all things, Thou knowest that I love Thee." One hundred eighty-one attended the dinner immediately following this service. The roll call showed twenty-eight present who were confirmed here, and thirty-one who were confirmed elsewhere. Many communications were read from those living at a distance who could not attend. There were twenty-four out-of-town guests present.

1890
William Franke
Mrs. Julia Eshelmann
Mrs. Bertha Muesing
Julius Witzke

1891
Mrs. Anna Bechberger
Matilda Huelsenbeck
Louis Heiman
Henry Busch

1892
Julius Lang
Henry Wagner
Mrs. Clara Shaffer
Matilda Breidert
Mrs. Friedericka Klinkenberg
William Muesing
Gust Busch
Henry Schreiber
Rev. M. F. Kretzmann
Mrs. Fred Rathge
Martin Bauman

1893
Julius Krenning
Mrs. Augusta Sprandel
Mrs. Katherine Wolf
Mrs. Rosine Bortner
Mrs. Anna Mathews
Mrs. Sophia Keck
Mrs. Louise Varner

1894
Maria Hass
Maria Sprandel
Mrs. Mary Duve
Mrs. Louise Seng
Mrs. Lillie Holzer
Fred Rottmiller
Matilda Spatz
Ernstine Schuemann
Edward Muesing
Edward Hess

1895
Mrs. Minnie Schroeder
Mrs. Julia Mills
Mrs. Clara Cofel
Mrs. Dora Bechberger
Louise Kaiser
Mrs. Katie Adams
Mrs. Emma Whiteman
Edward Mertz
Albert Krahn
Irwin Kammerer
Mrs. Emelie Hammel

1896
Mrs. Clara Rittermeyer
Mrs. Alvina Schreiber
William Kimpel
Frank Hartman
Ida Busch
Mrs. Sara Wagner
George John
John Vosgerau
Mrs. Clara Seidel
Walter Pfaffman
Mrs. Elizabeth Kretzmann
Mrs. Emma Lang
Fred Rathge
William Hammel

The Fourth Reunion

APRIL 14th was the date of the fourth Reunion Service, including members confirmed from 1897 to 1903. Three hundred twenty-five were present at the English morning service. The sermon by the pastor was based on the question of Jesus to the Twelve: "Will ye also go away?" and the answer of Simon Peter: "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." Ninety-eight were confirmed in this period. The dinner was attended by two hundred thirty-three guests. Greetings were read from ten who could not attend. Sixty out-of-town visitors were present. Prof. E. H. Engelbrecht, a former teacher, was a special guest. These classes were confirmed by Rev. R. D. Biedermann.

1897
Fred Kropp
Mrs. Rosa Smith
Mrs. Ida Kaufman
Gust Gehring
Mrs. Anna Gehring
Mrs. Lula Busch
Elizabeth Boese
Mrs. Marie John
Mrs. Mary Fritz
Mrs. Pauline Menzel

1898
Mrs. Ida Kropp
Mrs. Minnie Pfaffman
Lena Runge
Mrs. Julia Shanline
Mrs. Margaret Rottmiller
Julius Miller
Mrs. Bertha Kammerer
Ernst Kammerer
Henry Busch

1899
Karl Kropp
Mrs. Pauline Beights
Mrs. Lottie Hartman
Emma Bauman
Mrs. Ida Arehart
Mrs. Julia Bauman

1900
Walter Wehmeyer
Fred Stabe
Mrs. Anna Wehmeyer
Mrs. Anna Reamer
Mrs. Lillie Haifley
Emil Sabrosky

1901
Herman Butz
John Seidel
Arthur Misselhorn
Albert Sprandel
Mrs. Edith Rehwinkel
Mrs. Minnie Bauman
Frieda Engelbrecht
Mrs. Pauline Wisler

1902
Karl Seng
Bertha Kaiser
Mrs. Celia Schlupp
Mrs. Lula Sprandel
Henrietta Dosch
Mrs. Cora Ortstadt
Mrs. Olive Gates
Mrs. Olla Kimmel
Mrs. Lillie Mertz

1903
Albert Stabe
Mrs. Mary Beights
Mrs. Lottie Misselhorn
Mrs. Minnie Reichardt
Walter Beights

The Fifth Reunion

THE fifth Reunion, including classes confirmed from 1904 to 1908, was held May 5th. Because of the pastor's absence from the city, Rev. M. Scharlemann preached the sermon, choosing as his text Heb. 12, 1-2. This service was attended by two hundred fifty. At noon luncheon was served to two hundred guests in the school auditorium, after which a short program was carried out, followed by a Bach-Haendel concert in church at 3:00 P. M., given by all choral organizations of the church and directed by Mr. John Ehlers. Forty-nine out of eighty-six answered the roll call. Thirteen former members of this group were reported dead. There were forty-three out-of-town guests. This group was confirmed by Rev. E. C. Kuehn.

1904

Walter Duve
Rudolph J. Rehwinkel
Mrs. Amalia Gail
Mrs. Linnie Schreiber
Mrs. Nellie Feebles
Mrs. Emilia Kammerer
Mrs. Margaret Mullen
Mrs. Hilda Kaufman
John Ehlers
Alvin Kammerer
Meta Auman
Hertha Bauman
Mrs. Louise Lighty
Emma Pfaffman
Mrs. Bertha Ehlers

1905

John Herberger
Jesse Smith
John Reamer
Mrs. Minnie Weil
Arthur Beights
Mrs. Martha Hess
Mrs. Zella Sabrosky
Edward Schreiber

1906

LeRoy Beights
Philip Bertsch
Mrs. Hilda Swartz
Mrs. Anna Kane
Bertha Abelein
Hilda Beights
Mrs. Celia Bogner
Mrs. Ruth Dieterle

1907

Karl Kaufman
Herbert Wagner
Mrs. Tillie Kurtz
Mrs. Julia Muesing
Eleonore Kropp
Mrs. Frieda Baumgartner
Mrs. Rose Croninger
Mrs. Bertha ~~Kammerer~~ Engelbecht
Edward Hohnhaus
Mrs. Anna Hohnhaus
William Sebert

1908

Frank Herberger
William Hutt
Harold Shauck
Mrs. Bessie Hess
William Rittermeyer
Mrs. Cora Kaiser

The Sixth Reunion

THE group confirmed from 1909 to 1914, the first of those confirmed by the present pastor, held its special service, the sixth Reunion, at 10:30 A. M., Sunday, June 2, 1935. The pastor preached on the texts Acts 1, 12-14 and Acts 2, 1, urging all present to follow the early disciples in reconsecrating themselves to the spreading of the Gospel. Plates were laid for one hundred seventy-two at the noonday luncheon. There were thirty-four out-of-town guests.

1909

Louis Seidel
Mrs. Mabel Miller
Mrs. Gertrude Eskey
Mrs. Johanna Wills
Mrs. Clara Bly
Mrs. Metha Fraze

1910

Walter Hass
Mrs. Esther Ziebell
Mrs. Edna Kimpel
Mrs. Estella Bertsch
Rosalia Kropp
Chas. Mullen
Mrs. Maude Duve
Mrs. Almina Seng
Walter Bahls
Robert Engelbrecht
Mrs. Paula Rhea

1911

Alvin Bauman
Emory Hoffman
Robert Seidel
Mrs. Hilda Taylor
Helen Foehl
Thurlow Shaffer
Emil Thiem
Metha Beights

1912

George Seng
Mrs. Anna Bittikoffer
Mrs. Elsie Atz
Mrs. Frieda Snider
Wilmer Diehm
Mrs. Frieda Diehm
Mrs. Burl Edwards
Edward Froehlich
Mrs. Anna Thiem

1913

Harold Kaiser
Harry Ziebell
Herbert Detering
Mrs. Alma Pankop
Gertrude Streb
Mrs. Lois Tritch

1914

Walter Kaiser
Ralph Atz
Howard Foehl
Morris Bly
Frank Griem
Mrs. Elsie Butler
Mrs. Leora Sollenberger
Mrs. Lena Grimes
Mrs. Ella Karlen

The Seventh Reunion

THE seventh Reunion service was held for the classes confirmed from 1915 to 1921 at 10:30 A. M. July 7, 1935, Rev. A. T. Kretzmann of Barrington, Illinois, a member of the class of 1921, preaching on John 21, 15-19. The service was largely attended, followed by a dinner held at the fair grounds and attended by two hundred fifty-five. The usual roll call and program followed. Miss Angela Rehwinkel, Medical Missionary from India, addressed the group. Fifty guests from out-of-town were present.

1915

Mrs. Bertha Wright
Mrs. Ruth Gilham
Mrs. Ruth Raatz
George Hoffman
Mrs. Maude Butz
Mrs. Bertha Bertsch
Mrs. Beulah Bauman
Mrs. Meta Herberger
Mrs. Maude Stabe
Mrs. Leona Hornat
Albert Arehart
Oscar Raatz

1916

Josephine Smith
Mrs. Esther Wilson
Ruth Muesing
Ernst Karlen
Henry Buuck
Mrs. Gertrude Froehlich

1917

Clarence Ziebell
Ferris Shaffer
Earl Snider
Floyd Reith
Esther Reick
Mrs. Helen Ensor
Mrs. Mary Munk
Mrs. Edna Glass
Mrs. Gladys Wagner
Mrs. Edna Buuck
Mrs. Alitha Deibele
Mrs. Marie Sebert
Halley Butz

1918

Esther Detering
Mrs. Dorothy Shanline
Thelma Autenrieth
Paul Hess
Mrs. Mary Beckman
Mrs. Flossie Seidel
Paul Weil
Ernst Wambsganss

1919

Maurice Wagner
Harold Reichardt
Walter Reichardt
Gerald Cofel
Oland Autenrieth
Mrs. Beulah Wolf
Mrs. Agnes Bonar
Mrs. Luella Bahls
Helen John

1920

Ernst Sprandel
Mrs Hilda Reichardt
William Menzel

1921

Forrest Hess
Walter Schreiber
Lance Shaffer (R)
Arthur Wagner
Paul Zawadzke
Harold Streb
Mrs. Edith Herberger
Mrs. Lillian Wagner
Mrs. Nora Beights
Mrs. Wava Seidel
Mrs. Mildred Fausnaugh
Mrs. Edith Seng
Esther Hartman

The Eighth Reunion

ON August 8, 1935, the classes confirmed by Rev. M. F. Kretzmann during the years 1922 to 1926 were the guests of honor at the eighth Reunion beginning with a reconsecration service at 10:30, the text being Deut. 4, 23a. The sermon was preached by the pastor and was an appeal for reconsecration. At noon dinner was served these special guests in the school auditorium and was followed by the roll call and program. One hundred sixty-two were present, including twenty-eight out-of-town guests.

1922
John Zawadzke, Jr.
Leo Shaffer
Harold Hartmann
Mrs. Velma Manship
Mrs. Henrietta Frehse
Ruth Rittermeyer
Elton Kimmel
Edward Pankop
Mrs. Irma Hoffman
Mrs. Laura Barrett

1923
Harley Mills
Clarence Schlupp
Arthur Whiteman
Mrs. Mildred Patterson
Mrs. Elizabeth Wagner
Mrs. Rilla Barnett
Irene Koon
Retha Koon
Lillian Bowman
Eda Thielk
Mrs. Ada Wagner

1924
Paul Heign
Erich Wagner
Mrs. Eleanor Marshall
Lewis Fitch
Roland Wisler
Ralph Rhea
Mrs. Lillian Butz
Martin Scharlemann (R)

1925
George Bauman
Robert Rittermeyer
Reinhold Sprandel
Harold Stabe
Mrs. Dorothy Freshe
Elfreda Bechberger
Florence Autenrieth
Marjorie Duve
William Rottmiller
Edward Reichardt
Henry Lieske

1926
William Schroeder
Esther Zawadzke
Earl Butz
Verlo Butz
Edward Fritz
Louise Wemple
Ruth Butz
Judd Williams
Calvin Leighty
Wesley Butler
Harold Fritz
Mrs. Mary Berkes
Otta Koon
Mrs. Berniece Ziebell
Mrs. Ruth Schreiber
Mrs. Lenora Fritz
Mrs. Leota Kaiser
Waldemar Menzel
Lucille Moeller

The Ninth Reunion

ON September 8th the ninth Reunion, for the classes confirmed from 1927 to 1929, met for an inspirational service at 7:30 P. M. The pastor addressed this group, using as his text Acts 9, 6. The social meeting in the school auditorium followed with roll call, program, and visiting. Mr. L. O. Harms, of Cleveland, Ohio, a former teacher, attended, serving as guest organist for the church service.

1927

Geo. Hammel
Clarence Fritz
Walter Whiteman
Ronald Gehring
Harold Seidel
Herma Kammerer
Pauline Adams
Eleanor Wehmeyer
Mrs. Clara Bushong
Mrs. Ruth Lung
Edward Leighty
Walter Schwartz
Cora Koon
Mrs. Hilda Woggoman
Earl Baumgartner
Mrs. Ada Butz
Mrs. Ethel Schwartz
Harold Kammerer

1928

Allen Bowman
Henry Witzke
Harold Bauman
Harold Smith
Gerald Swartz
Paul John
Mrs. Viola Smith
Mrs. Beulah Edsell
Ellen Margaret Wills
Dorothy Rittermeyer
Eleanore Muesing
Frederick Butz, Jr.
Ruth Menzel
Richard Gael
Mrs. Ruth Eshelman (R)
Lucille Berkes
Helen Louise Butz
Charles Bogner
Forrest Strater
Alfred Bauman
Esther Zawadzke
Mrs. Elizabeth Zawadzke
Robert Klinkenberg
Arnold Hammel
Thaddus Berkes

1929

Carl Fritz
Harvey Koon
Earl Kimmel
Dale Kimmel
Edward Mathews
Helen Whiteman
Nelda Wehmeyer
Mrs. Mable Kammerer
Mrs. Helen Reichardt
Ethel Bortner
Mrs. Frieda Carey

The Tenth Reunion

ON October 6th, the tenth of a series of Reunion Services in connection with the diamond jubilee of the church, including all members confirmed from 1930 to 1932, was observed in the regular morning service at 10:30. The inspirational sermon preached by the pastor on the occasion was based on the question, Deut. 10, 12: "What doth the Lord, thy God, require of thee?" After the service one hundred fifty-five members and guests of these classes gathered in the school auditorium to enjoy the dinner as well as the roll call and program. Mrs. R. D. Biedermann, of Indianapolis, wife of the late Rev. R. D. Biedermann, a former pastor, was a special guest. Eleven out-of-town guests were present. Of those confirmed in this group one was reported dead.

1930

Mary Beth Butz
Robert Cofel
Mrs. Elizabeth Krenning
Gerhard Kretzmann
Cloyce Kurtz
Pauline Misselhorn
Mrs. Sarah Nott
Loren Sabrosky
Margaret Schreiber
Henrietta Seidel
Carl Sprandel
Mrs. Ruth Hons

1931

Ellen Arehart
Raymond Beights
Karl Bly
Pauline Dieterle
Elizabeth Pfaffman
Elizabeth Reick
Dorothy Shultz
Mrs. Laurine Ford
Mrs. Odonna Uhl
Marianna Wehmeyer
Martha Zawadzke

1932

Ernest Bauman
Josephine Berkes
Clifford Berkes
Marianne Bertsch
June Elizabeth Bertsch
George Duve
Emma Heiman
Henry Heiman
Margaret Gehring
Ralph Kimmel
Cecil Koon
Edward Kurtz
Robert Kropp
Howard Misselhorn
Betty Reith
Norman Rottmiller
Evelyn Seidel
Dale Seng
Robert Smith
Ilo Mae Swartz
Lester Wolf

The Eleventh Reunion

THE last of the Reunions, honoring members confirmed from 1933 to 1935, took place November 3rd, beginning with the morning service at 10:30. The sermon was preached by the pastor on the text Heb. 13, 9. "Be not carried away with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace." The choir presented a special number, "Seek Ye the Lord." Dinner was served at noon in the school auditorium to two hundred eleven guests. Forty-nine out of sixty-six members responded to the roll call. There were seventeen out-of-town guests.

1933
Mrs. Glenna Blue
Don Deibele
Burl Edwards
Mary Ellen Fraze
Woodrow Fritz
Margaret Hohnhaus
Arthur Kimpel
Donald Kurtz
June Mullen
Florence Nott
Margaret Pfaffman
Howard Sabrosky
August Sprandel
Harry Wilson
William Rathage

1934
Vera Austin
Esther Bauman
Carl Bauman
Daniel Butz
Dale Butz
Marie Butz
William Ensor
Mrs. Laurene Ewell (R)
George Feebles
Mrs. Ethel Fritz
Millicent Frey
Margaret Gael
Robert Geib (R)
Mrs. Matilda Geib (R)
Dorothy Kimpel
Elfrieda Kretzmann
George Kurtz
Mae Evelyn Miller
Laura Miller
William Rehwinkel
Mark Sabrosky
Beverly Seidel
Norman Seidel
Florence Shultz
Howard Smith
Mrs. Edna Seaney
Ruth Wilson
Franklin Woggoman
Marvin Springer (R)

1935
Mrs. Florence Ackerman
Irene Bauman
George Bechberger
Elsworth Busch
Marie Ehlers
Lloyd Geib
Mrs. Helen Geib
Esther Geib
Lenora Gutstein
Mrs. Inez Hammel
Evelyn John
Pauline Kimpel
George Kurtz, Jr.
Edwin Misselhorn
Caroline O'Dell
Florence Sebert
Talitha Shultz
Mrs. Helen Snook
Mrs. Lorene Stabe
Kathryn Wagner
Mrs. Mary Jane Wilstach
Mrs. Mary Wisler
Marjorie Ziebell

EACH reunion was organized into a permanent group, with the following as officers:

Year	Chairman	Secretary
1860-1878	Geo. Lang	Henry Ortstadt
1879-1889	Chas. Beckman	Julius Ortstadt
1890-1896	Julius Lang	Walter Pfaffman
1897-1903	Fred Kropp	P. A. Misselhorn
1904-1908	R. J. Rehwinkel	Eleonore Kropp
1909-1914	Harold Kaiser	Helen Foehl
1915-1921	Arthur Wagner	Walter Schreiber
1922-1926	John Zawadzke	Erich Wagner
1927-1929	Robert Klinkenberg	Mrs. Helen Reichardt
1930-1932	Gerhard Kretzmann	Dorothy Schultz
1933-1935	Donald Deibele	Beverly Seidel

Anniversary Gifts

The following were among the groups who presented anniversary gifts of money toward the church building fund, during the jubilee year:

The Young People,
The Children,
The Women of the Church.

The Altar Guild presented the new offering plates and an oak cabinet for the housing of the communion service.

The Last General Rally of the Jubilee Year

December 1, 1935

As this booklet is going to press, the plans for the last general rally for the Jubilee Year on December 1, 1935, are practically completed. The occasion is to be featured in all regular services, but especially in the evening service, when it is hoped to have all members in attendance, except the aged and infirm. All members have been asked to come to the school auditorium before this service and sign their names personally in a booklet to be preserved as a record for years to come as evidence of their membership in St. John's during the Jubilee Year. They will then receive this booklet as a souvenir of our celebration and as a reminder to appreciate our blessings.

The reception will be followed by an organ recital at 7:00 P. M., just preceding the service.

Historical and Statistical Information

Important Events:

First meeting of Lutherans in Kendallville, October, 1859.

Spiritual leader at that time: Pastor Frederick Schumann.

First Communion, Christmas, 1859, with fourteen guests.

First meeting of voters planning to organize: January 2, 1860.

First constitution signed by thirteen voters: March 4, 1860.

First regular meeting place, the house of Geo. Aichele, corner Main and Diamond Streets.

First financial report, Oct. 1, 1859, to June 24, 1860, $67.69.

First church, frame, 26x36x12, dedicated in February, 1862. Cost: $661.31.

Congregation joined the Missouri Synod in October, 1861.

Dedication of first brick church, (cost: $9,572.73) December 7, 1873.

Parsonage on Sheridan Street built in 1866 ($2,200.00).

Church bells bought in 1892.

First class of English (adult) catechumens, 1897.

Parsonage on Oak Street built in 1899.

Teacher's dwelling built in 1902.

Church enlarged and renovated in 1905.

New brick school built in 1913.

Fiftieth anniversary of the congregation observed in February, 1910.

English Sunday School opened in Spring of 1912.

Religious instruction in English only since 1916.

Fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the first brick church, December, 1923,

Church destroyed by fire, May 5, 1924.

Corner stone of new church laid January 18, 1925.

New church dedicated July 19, 1925.

Statistics

The following official acts are on record since the organization of the congregation:

Baptisms	1557
Confirmations	1067
Marriages	394
Burials	693

Numerical strength of the congregation at the end of the Jubilee Year:

Souls	857
Communicants	615
Voters	125
Enrolled in Christian Day School	95
Enrolled in Sunday School	356
Men's Club	74
Ladies Aids:	
First	56
Second	47
Walther League:	
Seniors	37
Juniors	39
Altar Guild	12
Choir	36

Pastors of St. John's

Frederick Schumann	1860 to 1865	(non-resident)
Albert Wuestemann	1865 to 1870	
Philip Fleischmann	1871 to 1878	
George Schumm	1879 to 1889	
William Broecker	1889 to 1896	
Richard D. Biedermann	1896 to 1903	
Ernst C. Kuehn	1903 to 1909	
Martin F. Kretzmann	Since 1909	

Teachers of St. John's

Assistant Pastor Lehner, 1860.

Student E. Knorr, 1861 to 1862.

Benjamin Gotsch and Mr. Ohlendorf till 1863.

J. Faitz, 1863 to 1868. (During interval Pastor C. Boese helped out).

E. Selle, 1868 to 1869.

A. C. F. Wichmann helped out till 1871.

W. V. Renner, 1871 to 1874.

Paul Ries, 1875 to 1878.

Pastor Fleischmann and Miss Wichmann helped out for some time.

C. F. Gose, 1880 to 1885.

H. W. R. Krenning, 1885 to 1890.

E. H. Engelbrecht, 1891 to 1901. (Minnie Brueggemann, assistant).

J. H. W. Piel, 1901 to 1918. (Assistants, Hilda Lohman and Meta Auman).

E. Langrehr (lower grades) 1916 to 1919.

B. J. Seitz, 1918 to 1919 (Assistant, Johanna Boese).

W. Meier, 1919 to 1922. (Assistant, Johanna Boese).

L. O. Harms, 1922 to 1929.

R. Fiehler (lower grades) 1927 to 1930.

A. M. Fenker, 1929 to 1932.

Esther Hartman (lower grades) since 1930.

J. Ehlers, since 1932.

Official Family for 1935

Pastor and Chairman:	Rev. M. F. Kretzmann
Vice Chairman:	Karl Seng
Secretary:	R. J. Rehwinkel
Treasurer:	Paul Zawadzke
Financial Secretary:	Don Deibele
Deacons:	I. Kammerer, W. Wehmeyer L. Seidel, Earl Baumgartner
Trustees:	W. Duve, Ed. Mertz, Halley Butz.
Elders:	Wm. Weil, J. Herberger.
Board of Christian Education:	C. G. Beckman, LeRoy Beights, E. H. Sabrosky.
Teachers:	John Ehlers Esther Hartman H. Lieske, Assistant

Looking Forward to 1960

Christians should cultivate the happy faculty of looking forward. For them the uncertainties of the future hold no terrors. For there are also certainties, opportunities, and blessings that come from and rest upon the abiding promises of the grace of God. We are not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which He showed unto His servants during the last seventy-five years. We still have the pure Word and unadulterated sacraments. As long as we have these blessings of God in our homes as well as in the church and school, so long there is nothing to fear. As long as we do not lose these blessings through indifference or open enmity, so long we can look forward with confidence.

May God therefore grant us grace to esteem and hold fast to his blessings. If the opportunities come to us, let us ever be ready and willing to "enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise." May each of us say with David: "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple." May we consider it our greatest privilege to serve our gracious Lord, especially in His Church and Kingdom, that we may lay up treasures in heaven and build for eternity.

Then we shall have nothing to fear. Some of us will be gone before the Hundredth Anniversary of our dear church will be celebrated, if the world still stands that long. But if our children and children's children carry on, if the same old Gospel message is preached, if the work of building the spiritual walls of Zion is taken up by succeeding generations, the Lord, according to His promises, will continue to bless St. John's Congregation and make it a blessing to many.

Look forward, therefore, with confidence to the anniversary of 1960, but above all things to the great reunion in heaven! "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

"Stand fast in the Faith!"

M. F. K.

Our Reconsecration Program

MOTTO: "Stand Fast in the Faith."

We resolve:

1. To attend divine services every Sunday during the Jubilee Year and thereafter.

2. To commune at the Lord's Table frequently.

3. To invite and bring others to church.

4. To establish or maintain the family altar and to bring up our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

5. To reconsecrate ourselves personally to Christ, our Savior, our soul, mind, body, and talents.

6. To consecrate our earthly goods to the Lord by regular contributions for His work at home and abroad.

7. As voting members to renew our pledge to attend the congregational meetings and to win others to become voting members.

"STAND FAST IN THE FAITH"

I Cor. 16, 13

STAND FAST IN THE FAITH

I Cor. 16, 13